

## Claims

1. Method for maintaining the sequence of packets in connectionless packet switching with alternative routing for a network comprising a plurality of routers according to which

- a route is selected for a packet arriving in a router,
- the selected route for the relevant flow of the packet is stored in the router,
- 10 - the packet is forwarded to the selected route,
- a newly arriving packet which belongs to the same flow is forwarded to the stored route and
- in the event that no appropriate packet for a flow is located in the router the selected route is deleted in the router.

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2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that as a criterion for determining whether a packet for a flow is located in the router, the number of packets belonging to the flow is evaluated in a queue of the router.

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3. Method according to Claim 2, characterized in that as a criterion for determining whether a packet for a flow is located in the router, the number of packets belonging to the flow is evaluated in precisely one queue of the router.

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4. Method for maintaining the sequence of packets in connectionless packet switching with alternative routing for a network comprising a plurality of routers, according to which

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- the arrival time for a packet arriving in a router is stored in the router,

- a route is selected for the packet arriving in the router,
- the selected route for the relevant flow of the packet is stored in the router,
- the packet is forwarded to the selected route,
- 5 - the arrival time is updated for the relevant flow of a newly arriving packet,
- a newly arriving packet for the flow of which a route is stored is forwarded to the stored route and
- in the event that a predetermined time has expired since the
- 10 arrival time of the last arriving packet of a flow, the storages for the flow are deleted.

5. Method according to Claim 4,  
characterized in that

15 the storages for the individual flows are periodically deleted.

6. Method according to Claim 4 or Claim 5,  
characterized in that

20 the predetermined period is set according to a criterion determining the distribution of traffic.

7. Method according to any one of the preceding claims,  
characterized in that the storages for the individual flows

25 are effected in a flow table (FT).